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Geography, History and Civics  
of  
Woodford County, Illinois

*Edited by*

ROY L. MOORE

*County Superintendent of Schools*

Published under the direction of the officers of the  
Woodford County Teachers' Association

## INTRODUCTION.

The chapters that follow are presented to the people of this county with the sincere desire that the knowledge of home conditions may become more general than today. Realizing that the study of geography, history and civics should begin with home environment, an effort has been made to prepare the material for such a study of Woodford county. Familiarity with the contents of this little book will furnish a good foundation on which base the future studies in these subjects.

We are especially indebted to Prof. D. C. Ridgley, of Normal for the valuable assistance rendered in the preparation of this little book, the chapters being based on his outline, to Edw. Anthony for the interesting chapter on Ginseng, and to others who have so kindly assisted in this work.

Yours truly,

ROY L. MOORE,



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## CHAPTER I

## LOCATION.

Woodford county is located north of the central part of Illinois and is bordered on the west by the Illinois river. The extreme southern boundary of the county lies 144 miles north of the base line, and the third principal meridian crosses the county from north to south, it being the separating line between Clayton and Linn, Greene and Roanoke townships. It is bounded on the north by Marshall and LaSalle counties, latter forming a boundary for six miles to the extreme east. On the east it is bounded by Livingston and McLean counties, Livingston forming the boundary line for twelve miles, adjoining Minonk and Panola townships. The southern portion is bounded by McLean and Tazewell counties. This boundary line is quite irregular, several points of interesting history being interwoven with this irregularity of boundary.

The western portion is bordered by the Illinois river, and on the opposite shore lies Peoria county. The northern and western portions are directly tributary to the Illinois river thru numerous small streams. The remainder of the county is tributary to the Mackinaw river, which crosses the southern part. This river, in turn, flows into the Illinois river. This county is located in the heart of the great agricultural region of Illinois and consequently possesses much agricultural wealth. It is also in the Illinois coal fields and has much mineral wealth also.

## THE AREA.

The irregular boundary line makes it difficult to estimate the exact area of Woodford county. (In the United States Geological Survey, it is estimated at about 540 square miles. The greatest length east and west is about 33 miles, while the great-

25 July 1885 B.H.S.

3118 Woodford County, MacKenzie's survey

est width north and south is 22 1-2 miles. The river as it borders the county is quite wide, as it broadens into Peoria lake along the western border of the county.)

### POPULATION.

It lies in the center of a thickly settled region, although the county itself is not thickly populated. The cities of the county are not large, but they are for the most part, live, progressive cities with a prospect for growth.

A number of important cities of the state are within easy reach from any portion of the county. Peoria, Pekin, Bloomington, Streator and Pontiac are but a few miles distant, with convenient railway connections; while Chicago is but 130 miles from the county seat of the county. This favorable location gives the people a convenient market and at the same time opens to them trading points of easy access.

The population of Woodford county, as shown by the census of 1910, was 20,506. This is about equally divided between the various cities and villages of the county and the rural districts. The census, as compared with that of ten years ago shows a decrease of about six per cent due largely to a shifting of the rural population.

The following is a list of the cities and villages of the county showing the name, location, population and date of founding of each. The population of all incorporated villages and cities was taken from the United States Census Reports for 1910. The population of the villages not yet incorporated has been secured from reliable estimates, as the Census Report does not give the population of these:

Name	Population	Township	Date platted
Minonk	2070	Minonk	1854
Eureka	1525	Olio	1850
El Paso	1470	El Paso	1854
Roanoke	1311	Roanoke	1872
Washburn	777	Cazenovia	1853
Metamor	694	Metamora	1836
Benson	362	Clayton	1873



Secor	358	Palestine	1857
Low Point	200	Cazenovia	1871
Kappa	142	El Paso	1854
Spring Bay	119	Spring Bay	1836
Panola	108	Panola	1854
Congerville	100	Montgomery	1888
Goodfield	100	Montgomery	1888
Cazenovia	75	Cazenovia	1870
Cruger	25	Cruger	1856
Woodford	25	Minonk	1874

Several of the townships of the county have no cities or villages in them, while a few, as will be seen by the above list, have two villages within their borders. Cazenovia township is the only one in the county having three villages.

The township in which there are no villages are as follows: Linn, Partridge, Greene, Worth and Kansas.

Several villages that were at one time of considerable importance, have passed out of existence. Versailles, located southeast of the present site of Eureka, was founded in 1836, and was at one time a flourishing village and for two years was the county seat. It was named for Versailles, Kentucky. Bowling Green was located on Panther Creek, in what is now Palestine township. It was a lively business center of that day, and the people came many miles to have their grain ground at the Bowling Green mill. This village was founded the same year that witnessed the founding of Versailles. Both were located on a stage line leading to Peoria. Nothing remains at either place to tell the story of the part played by these villages in pioneer history. Fannyville, or Slabtown, was also an important place at one time. It was located on the Mackinaw, and a distillery of considerable size was operated there. This village has also become a thing of the past.

The following list arranged according to the location, shows the population of the various townships of the county, and the dates on which the regions now embraced in these townships were settled.

Name	Popula- tion	Date of settle- ment
Minonk	2867	1852
Clayton	1228	1854
Linn	763	1840
Cazenovia	1662	1832
Partridge	377	1819
Spring Bay	326	1823
Worth	868	1830
Metamora	1531	1823
Roanoke	2237	1832
Greene	751	1829
Panola	889	1836
ElPaso	2082	1835
Palestine	1055	1830
Olio	2200	1824
Cruger	370	1824
Montgomery	951	1831
Kansas	384	1828

As will be seen from the above, those regions that supplied an abundance of wood for fuel and timber for the log cabins, were first settled, while the rich prairie lands, that are now of such great value were left unsettled for many years. The construction of railroads through the county changed the life of the people of the county very greatly. New villages sprang up along the various lines. The county settled more rapidly and villages that were so unfortunate as to be distant from some of these lines of travel and commerce soon lost their prominence. Traffic on the river by means of boats, which had grown to considerable importance began to wane. The railroads, because of the part played in the development of the county, and its present life and prosperity, are deserving of prominent mention later in this discussion.

## CHAPTER II

## CLIMATE.

The climate of Woodford county is similar to that of the central part of the state. It possesses those characteristics that are essential for successful agriculture. A rich soil alone would not be sufficient to insure profitable results in farming, were it not that the climatic conditions are also favorable. The seasons are of sufficient length to insure the ripening of various crops, and the rainfall is not only sufficient, but it is well distributed throughout the summer season. The assurance the farmer possesses that when he sows in Woodford county he will reap a more or less abundant harvest, is a sufficient evidence of a favorable climate.

There is sufficient variety in the various seasons of the year to produce an active, vigorous people, the summers are neither long enough nor hot enough to produce the sluggishness found among the people of warmer climates.

The growing season is from the last heavy frost in the spring to the first in the fall. The usual length of this season in Woodford county is from five to five and one-half months. The rainfall averages about thirty-one inches in the county annually, the greater part of which falls during the growing season, more than half of the annual rainfall occurring between May 1st and September 30th. This is sufficient to insure a satisfactory crop, if properly distributed and if other conditions are favorable. Crops need more rain in the spring and early summer while they are growing than later in the summer when ripening. The rainfall in May and June, which averages four inches for each month, is sufficient to supply this need of the growing crop.

The following facts are taken from the report of the United States Weather Bureau. A station has been maintained by the Weather Bureau at Peoria since 1885 and at Minonk since 1895.



The figures given are from Minonk, which has an elevation of 745 feet above the sea.

Average annual rainfall—31 inches.

Average annual snowfall—29 inches.

The snow is melted and counted also in the rainfall. Ten to twelve inches of snow are required to equal one inch of rainfall.

Average number of days rain or snow—92.

Average date of last killing frost in spring—April 27.

Average date of first killing frost in autumn—Oct. 8.

Earliest date of killing frost in autumn—September 18.

Latest date of killing frost in spring—May 11th.

Average annual temperature—50 degrees.

Highest temperature—106 degrees.

Lowest temperature—28 degrees below zero.

Most rain falls in the months of the growing season. May, June, July, August and September—together receive fifty-five per cent. of the annual rainfall. Most rain falls in May, and the least in December. More rain falls during May, when the corn is growing, than in the months of October and November combined, when the corn is being gathered.

The highest temperature occurs in July and the lowest in February.

Peoria has an average annual rainfall of thirty-five inches, and a snowfall of twenty-one inches. The average dates for killing frosts at Peoria are April 15th and October 18th.

A record is kept of the monthly discharge of the Illinois river at Peoria. It is greatest in March and April, and least in August.

#### SURFACE FEATURES AND NATURAL DRAINAGE.

Several years ago the United States Geological Survey published a valuable book, "The Illinois Glacial Lobe," from which the following is taken:

"The northwestern portion of Woodford county is directly tributary to the Illinois river, through small streams. The re-

mainder of the county is tributary to the Mackinaw river, which crosses its southeast border.

"This is one of the most elevated counties of central Illinois, the uplands being in places about 850 feet and generally 750 feet or more above tide. The Illinois river, on the west border of the county is only about 430 feet above tide, thus making a valley fully 400 feet in depth. The small streams therefore leading down to the valley make very rapid descent. The southwestern border of the county is crossed by the Bloomington moranic system, which has a subdued expression and rises so gradually from the plain on the east that it would scarcely attract notice, though it stands about fifty feet higher than the plain.

"There is a heavy deposit of drift covering the entire county if we may judge from the outcrops and the few wells which have reached rock, the thickness at Metamora being 280 feet, at Eureka 150, and at Minonk about 125 feet. Outcrops of rock are reported in a few places in the south part of the county on tributaries of the Mackinaw river, and a single outcrop occurs on Panther Creek. So far as known to the writer there are no out crops on the Illinois river bluffs."

### RUNNING WATER.

The resident of Woodford county has abundant opportunity to study the work of running water. The face of the earth in its innumerable details has been fashioned more largely by the work of running water than by any other activity of nature. The streams, divides and drainage basins all form an interesting basis for study both to the child and the adult.

The following suggestions are made to teachers who are giving this work:

For detailed topics of study see State Course of Study, Fourth Year Geography, first and second months, and master them thoroly. In addition to the topics there given, show how the rainfall on the school yard or school district reaches small streams of the locality and trace it step by step to the Gulf of Mexico. Make definite study of the smallest drainage basins of your locality. Find its streams, its divides, its slopes, its adja-

cent drainage basins, its relation to larger and larger basins of which it is a part. Name and locate the drainage basins of Woodford county. On the outline map of the county use two colors, one to represent the drainage basin of the Mackinaw, the other to indicate the smaller basins draining into the Illinois river.

Describe the home stream, the Mackinaw, the Illinois, the Des Plaines, the Kankakee, and the Mississippi by stating of each: (1) its name, (2) where it rises, (3) direction of flow, (4) where it empties. By connecting this descriptive work with the actual small streams of the school neighborhood, it takes on a meaning and concreteness of great value for all future geography work. A drainage line a hundred feet in length is a good one to begin with. Home geography of streams and stream basins is essential, and may be made most interesting and instructive.



## CHAPTER III

## THE VALLEY OF THE ILLINOIS RIVER.

The valley of the Illinois is the most conspicuous topographic feature within the state, and the stream and valley have influenced the history and development of Illinois in an important manner. While the portion of that valley located within the borders of Woodford county, does not present any especially striking characteristics, it is of sufficient importance to justify a careful study. It presents many features that are of value to those seeking to add to their fund of geographical knowledge. The flood plain of the Illinois varies greatly in width. That portion lying south of Spring Bay is comparatively narrow, while at a point a short distance above Spring Bay it broadens, until in Partridge township it covers a great area. As a result of this, hundreds of acres of land in that township are of but small value as farming land. In 1903 a movement was started to reclaim this land by the formation of the Partridge drainage district. The project was to reclaim hundreds of acres of land, that, if properly drained, would be very valuable. Thus far the work has cost thousands of dollars, and is not yet completed.

This flood plain of the Illinois is bordered by steep bluffs, that rise to considerable height, making the ascent from the valley to the uplands more or less difficult. This difficulty has been overcome to a certain extent along established roadways by grading, but owing to the work of erosion it is difficult to keep these roads in good condition. The streams of this region possess the usual characteristics of streams in the midst of hills. They quickly become raging torrents, and almost as quickly subside. Much of the summer the streams are either dry or contain but little flowing water. Among the creeks which drain the western portion of the county are the following: Richland,

Blaylock's Slough, Funk's Run, Partridge, Ten Mile and Blue Creek.

The flood plain in Partridge township is crossed by levees, which are used as public highways. The flood plain in its natural condition would present barriers to those attempting to cross it. There is no bridge across the river touching the borders of this county, but a ferry is operated across the river from Chillicothe island, which is a body of land containing about 166 acres, located in the river, yet forming a part of the northwest portion of Partridge township.

Several natural features of interest are found in Partridge township. Goose Lake, which covers a considerable area, lies in the western part of the township. Rice Pond also covers a large area.

#### DISTRIBUTION OF FORESTS AND PRAIRIES.

Much of the territory that was at one time covered with timber in this county has been cleared and is now under cultivation. Originally the streams were bordered with timber, and there still remains considerable timber land along Walnut and Panther and other creeks, the Mackinaw river and the streams flowing into the Illinois. An extensive area in the western and also in the southern portion of the county is still woodland. It is estimated that 29,315 acres are still in timber. Much of this is used for pasture.

Much of the territory now embraced in the following townships was originally covered with timber, Partridge, Worth, the western parts of Cazenovia, Metamora and Kansas, the southern parts of Olio, Greene and Palestine and the eastern and southern parts of Montgomery. Here and there in the remaining portions of the county a narrow strip of timber is found.

A great variety of native trees are found in the timber of the county. The list that follows is by no means complete, but it is intended to show the more common varieties: White oak, red oak, bur oak, black oak, walnut, hickory, hard and soft maple, box elder, cotton wood, ash, sycamore, mulberry, hemlock, locust, butternut, poplar, wild cherry, wild plum, wild crab apple,

hackberry, hemlock, birch, beach, buckeye, haw, willow, iron wood.

### SOIL AND DRAINAGE.

Soil is the result of the breaking down of rock or of the decomposition of living matter. Numerous agencies are at work in the breaking down process. Weathering is one of the important agents in this work. Glaciers in ages past, played an important part in the formation of Illinois soils.

The first ice sheet extended farther south than any other, but it was stopped in its progress southward by the Ozark mountains. The second ice sheet covered only four or five counties in the northwestern portion of the state. The last sheet covered the northern part of the state as far west as DeKalb, Bureau and Woodford counties, and as far south as Shelbyville and Mattoon.

The character of a soil is dependent on the kind of rock broken in its formation. The breaking up of sandstone forms a sandy or a gravelly soil. A blending of materials forms a loam, and the proportions of sand or clay produce either sandy or clay loam. If a quantity of decomposed vegetable or animal matter is found in the soil, such matter is called humus. Muck is formed when humus in large proportions is mixed with sand or clay and is well decomposed.

The soil in Woodford county is a black loam and the region belongs to the black prairie lands of the corn belt. The dark color of this prairie soil is due to the fact that for ages the rank grasses grew and fell down until there accumulated a deep mass of partly rotted vegetation. As the excessive amount of vegetable matter is washed out of it thru cropping, this dark color will gradually disappear, the color first becoming brown, then gray.

Soil acts as a mechanical support for plants, forming a mass in which the roots become embedded. It is a storehouse for water, food and air, upon which the life and growth of the plant depends. The quantity of moisture held by the soil is one of the elements that determines its fitness for cultivation. Plants take their food in solution, so that the soil must contain more or less water, in order that the plants



may extract food particles from the soil. The average rainfall in Woodford county, which is 31 inches per annum, is sufficient to render the soil fit for agricultural purposes and to insure a satisfactory crop season after season.

At one time the fertility of this soil was considered inexhaustable, but experience has taught that, while the soil is of almost inexhaustable richness, that there are certain elements that become exhausted.

There are three elements that farmers frequently have to supply to their land. These are nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium. These are necessary for plant growth. Woodford county soils are especially apt to need nitrogen and phosphorus.

Recent years have witnessed a great increase in the attention paid to the conservation of the fertility of the soil in this county. Various means are employed, the more common being:

1. The use of barnyard manure.
2. The plowing under of growing crops and stubble.
3. The application of commercial fertilizers.
4. The growth of legumes for the restoration of nitrogen.
5. The rotation of crops.

It also becomes necessary at times to add lime to a soil to neutralize it.

The greater portion of the surface of Woodford county is practically level, or slightly rolling prairie land. In order that the soil may be rendered fit for agricultural purposes, artificial drainage is necessary. In drained land the roots go deeper, the roots feed in the deeper soil and will take less water from the surface.

The best method of underdrainage and the one that is followed most frequently in Woodford county, is by means of trenches with hollow tiles at the bottom. The size of the tiles vary with the land to be drained. The rows are placed from 30 to 100 feet apart in order to secure the best drainage. Some drainage is done by means of open ditches but these are not as satisfactory as the tile.

Most of the land in Woodford county is now more or less satisfactorily drained, and this is one of the reasons for the excellent record made in farming in this county.

The University of Illinois now maintains an experiment station in this county. It is located in Clayton township, and consists of fifteen acres of lands, given to the university by B. M. Stoddard for experimental purposes. Since that time the university has been putting it in shape, tiling it and getting it ready for successful farming.

#### FARM LANDS.

Of the 337,920 acres of land in this county 93.5 per cent are in farm lands and 87.4 per cent are improved farm lands. The farms average 151.8 acres each, while the average number of acres of improved land per farm are 133.7.

#### CROPS.

Corn is the great staple crop of Woodford county, thousands of acres being planted each year, the acreage in corn in 1910 was 116,113 acres, or more than one-third of the entire land area of the county. The yield in that year was 5,220,415 bushels. Second to corn is the oat crop, the acreage being 83,108, while the crop was 3,213,760 bushels. The acreage of wheat was comparatively small, as but 5,996 acres were in wheat; 20,581 acres were in hay and forage. In the western part of the county, in the sandy soil of the river valley, watermelons and sweet potatoes are raised quite extensively, and find ready market in Peoria and in the small towns in that vicinity. The potato yield reached 68,367 bushels. Woodford county is not noted as a fruit region as there is more or less uncertainty as to a crop. There are, however, numerous fruit trees on the farms of the county as the following table will show:

Apple trees .....	32,498
Peaches, nectarine trees .....	22,237
Pear trees .....	3,561
Plum trees .....	6,226
Cherry trees .....	9,992
Grape vines .....	63,394
Strawberries .....	16 acres
Raspberries .....	34 acres
Blackberries .....	44 acres

## CHAPTER IV

### GINSENG, THE NEW PLANT INDUSTRY.

The agricultural interests are not alone confined to the staple products, however, as here and there some special product is cultivated with profit. Perhaps one of the most interesting of these special products is ginseng. Edwin Anthony, who has been successful in its cultivation for a number of years, has written the following interesting article concerning its cultivation.

#### HISTORY.

To Father Loftan, a French missionary to the Iroquois Indians, stationed near Montreal, Canada, who was, like most of the early Jesuit priests, a botanist, belongs the honor of discovering that Ginseng was indigenous to this continent.

The European became aware of the rich regard in which Ginseng was held by the Chinese and their continent was searched without success. When the information became general that this valuable plant was discovered in America the Indians were soon engaged in digging the roots and preparing them for export. This was about two hundred years ago.

It was not until 1832 that the exportation of Ginseng from the United States was worthy of recognition as an industry and from that date on, the government kept track of the amount of root transported.

At an early day it was accepted the same as money. A neighbor of mine once told me that he had gathered within a short distance of Metamora, on a Sunday morning stroll, enough to buy or trade for his weekly amount of tobacco. That was perhaps fifty years ago.

As the harvesting of the root continued, the supply decreased and became more difficult to find.



With the advance of civilization the axe has gradually destroyed its natural home, and today wild ginseng has become very scarce. During the year 1887 the supply had become so exhausted and prices so advanced that the ginseng enterprise aroused interest among a few scientific people of this country, and during this year the first attempts were made to cultivate it. As the wild supply is now about exterminated, all ginseng is now practically in the hands of the growers.

### DEMAND.

Ginseng is prescribed by the physicians of the Chinese Empire.

It is considered to be a tonic, alterative, stimulant, sedative, antiseptic, carminative and demulcent. There is no indisposition too slight and no illness so severe for which Ginseng is not a remedy.

The reports of the U. S. Consuls at Chinese ports sustain this statement.

Some have asked if the change in China would not affect the Ginseng market. Not any more than the election of Mr. Wilson as president will effect our desire for tea and coffee.

I have a letter from an importer in Foochow, China who says he can handle Ginseng by the ton, as he has a large market for the dry root. He also states that he thinks it improbable that he would ever have to offer me less than \$6.00 per pound. I have never shipped any to this man as it is so much more convenient to sell here, although all the dry root, unless it be the fibre, is exported. The greater the age seems to add value to the root. They are claimed to reach the century mark.

Some grades of Ginseng are in greater demand than others. The selling is done in this way. I send a sample of a few pounds of my product to a dealer in, perhaps New York City, and he calls on the Chinese exporters to make him a bid on it. He writes or wires me how much he will give per pound for my product. I can accept or reject the offer and in the latter case he will hold for a better market.

## BOTANY.

American Ginseng is allied to the Parsley family. The seedlings appear about the middle of April or the first of May. They have three small leaves supported by a stem and seldom rise more than three inches above the ground the first year. During the second year they produce two branch like stems with from three to five leaves and may reach a height of five or six inches each. In the third year there are usually three leaf stalks and reach a height of from fifteen to twenty-five inches.

Ginseng reproduces itself by means of seeds. Roots send up yearly a new stem, bearing at the top, leaves, flowers and finally berries. The berries are from one to three seeded, and when ripe are a bright red color. The peculiarity about the seed is that it requires eighteen months for them to germinate. Seed gathered in the fall of 1912 will be kept in boxes or jars in moist sand or earth until the fall of 1913, when they will be planted and appear in the spring of 1914, as I have described.

There are certain fundamentals that must be followed in the cultivation of this plant.

Location—It prefers a hillside where there is quick drainage.

Shading—It is never found growing in the open, but must have shade. This is the expensive item in its cultivation. The shack is built by setting posts about 8 feet apart on which is built a framework and on this is placed boards running north and south leaving cracks to admit about twenty-five per cent of sun light.

Soil—There should be enough sand in the soil to make it loose and mellow. It is thrown up in beds in which the roots are transplanted from the seed beds at one or two years of age, about seven or eight inches apart. The bed may be mulched with sawdust, leaves, or straw. Planting is done in the fall after the roots are dormant or in the spring before the new life begins.

Diseases—Like every other crop this plant has its own diseases. Alternaria, commonly called blight, is the commonest foe to this crop. It kills the top and seed crop and also checks root growth for the season. The rot kills the root, thus

taking all. It is plain to me that when conditions are favorable there will be no disease. The sprayer must be used several times during the season with Bordeaux mixture of a strength of 3-3-50.

Ginseng is dug at five or six years of age and should be carefully washed so as not to injure the outer skin. It is dried by placing on racks in a regular dryer or placed in an attic or upper room, which requires from three to six weeks. It requires about three and one-half pounds of green root to make one of dry, in which condition it is shipped.



## CHAPTER V

### RAILROADS.

The first railroad constructed thru Woodford county was the Illinois Central. This soon became, and has since remained, an important factor in the industrial life of the eastern portion of this county. Work was begun in 1852 and continued for a number of months before the line was ready for active service. Four towns soon sprang up along this line of road, Minonk, Panola, El Paso and Kappa. At a much later day Woodford was founded midway between Panola and Minonk. The operation of this road served to open a wide territory that previously was practically unsettled. A market was opened close at hand and it became an inducement for farmers to secure farms in that region. The broad prairies were soon a scene of activity.

The road is an important means of connecting this county with the outside world, both by its passenger and freight service. The line which extends thru this county directly connects New Orleans, Louisiana, and Madison, Wisconsin, so that cities and villages along its right of way, not only have the means of direct intercourse between these cities, but with a great number of other cities, such as LaSalle, Freeport, Bloomington, Cairo, Illinois, and Jackson, Miss., and other cities of importance.

The central line was not, however, to remain the only railroad thru the county for many months, for in 1855-56 the eastern branch of the Peoria & Oquakwa, later known as the Toledo, Peoria & Warsaw, now the Toledo, Peoria & Western railway, was constructed, crossing the Illinois Central railway at right angles at El Paso. Other cities soon sprang up along this road, among these being Eureka, which had previously had its beginning a mile south of the present location of the business portion of the city. Secor, midway between Eureka and El Paso,

and Cruger two miles west of Eureka, were also started. The construction of this road along the present right-of-way was a source of disappointment to at least two villages in the county, for Kappa and Panola had each hoped to be the point at which the new road would cross the Illinois Central. The crossing at El Paso gave that city a prestige and advantage that neither of the neighboring villages enjoyed.

This railway is important as a connection with the large eastern cities. It connects Keokuk, Iowa, and Effner, Illinois. At the latter point it makes connection with the Pennsylvania system for the large cities of the east, including New York. The western division not only connects with Keokuk, but also with Davenport, Iowa, and Warsaw, Illinois.

For a number of years these were the only two railroads in the county. Not until several years after the Civil war were any other roads constructed. The early seventies witnessed the completion of several lines that have done much to develop the wealth of the county.

In 1870 the St. Louis, Jacksonville and Chicago railroad was built to Metamora, and was later finished to Washington. This road is now a part of the Chicago & Alton system, and is known as the Dwight division. The line connects Peoria and Chicago, its trains using the T. P. & W. tracks from Peoria to Washington. At Dwight it connects with the main line of the C. & A. and runs directly into Chicago. As in the case of the other railroads constructed, this road had much to do with shaping the geography and history of the portion of the county it touched. Washburn, which had its beginning a short distance north of its present site, just across the line in Marshall county, moved so as to be near the railroad. Low Point also changed its location, while Cazenovia was established a short distance southwest of Low Point.

In 1872 the Chicago, Pekin & Southwestern road was built between Pekin and Streator and has direct connection with Chicago. This is now a part of the Santa Fe system and is known as the Pekin branch. It is completed from Pekin to the main line of the Santa Fe at Ancona, with the exception of a strip of probably six miles of track from Pekin junction east of Wash-

ington to the Streator junction east of Eureka. The T. P. & W. tracks are used for this distance, a stipulated rental being paid for the use of them. This line connected Eureka and Minonk with Streator and Pekin. Two other towns were soon established between the above named points, Benson and Roanoke. This brings a wide and very fertile territory in touch with the markets of Chicago. It also connects at Streator with the great main line of the Santa Fe, which touches many of the great cities of the west and southwest.

About 1873 another branch of the Illinois Central was constructed, which connects this county with the cities and villages of Livingston and Kankakee counties. This is known as the Middle division and extends from Minonk to Kankakee. It enters Woodford county a short distance south of the line running east and west thru the middle of Minonk township. It extends west until it connects with the original line of the Central, a mile and a half south of Minonk, and its trains run into that city on the north and south line. This road makes Minonk one of its division points, and there is a small round house located in the southern part of the city. The Central coal chutes are also located south of Minonk and many engines on both lines of the Central take coal there each day. The chutes were recently erected at a considerable expense and have every convenience for coaling an engine without loss of time. The coal cars are run on a switch, the coal is unloaded and then elevated by means of a stationary engine, so as to be ready to supply engines needing fuel.

A grain point and station was later established on this road in the eastern part of Minonk township, known as Spires. This road gives direct connection with Pontiac and Kankakee, and, from the latter point, with Chicago.

The latest railway to be constructed in this county was the Lake Erie & Western, which passes thru the southern portion. This line is now a part of the New York Central system and connects Peoria, Illinois, and Sandusky, Ohio, passing thru numerous important cities midway. The road was constructed about 1888 and touches a portion of the county that previously had been a considerable distance from any line of road. Two villages soon sprang up within the borders of the county, both of these in



Montgomery township. These were Congerville and Goodfield. There were, in addition to these, two other villages that were established along this road, just across the county line, each of which draws much of its trade from Woodford county. One of these is Deer Creek, in Tazewell county, and the other Carlock, in McLean county.

The construction of this line has placed the southern part of this county in direct and very convenient connection with both Bloomington and Peoria, as well as many other important points on this line.

From the above it will be seen that Woodford county is connected by the rail with the great cities in all directions, and that these are within comparatively easy access. The Santa Fe opens the great western region for convenient communication. The T., P. & W. making its connection with the Pennsylvania system and the L. E. W. as a portion of the New York Central system, places the people in touch with the east. The Chicago & Alton branch makes possible easy communication with the cities of the main lines of that great system, while the Illinois Central opens the regions of the southern states as well as those of the north and northwest.

These lines are so well distributed over the county that practically every township is touched by one or more of the great arteries of commerce. Of the townships of the county, but five are without a railroad, Kansas, Spring Bay, Partridge, Worth and Linn. Three of these have a road within less than a mile of its border.

The river traffic merely touches the western boundary of the county. The extreme west is not touched by any railway system, hence it is necessary to use the steamers for transportation. An elevator is located on the edge of the river at Spring Bay. The ease with which transportation is carried on there depends on whether or not the water is high enough to come within reasonable distance of the elevator. Boats stop at Spring Bay during the season for passengers and also to deliver freight. Before the railroads became so numerous this traffic was of more importance than it is at present.

## CHAPTER VI

### INDUSTRIAL INTERESTS.

The mineral wealth of the county has added materially to its prosperity, and has made it possible to secure a high grade of soft coal without leaving the borders of the county. The territory embraced in the county, lies within the Illinois coal fields. Prospecting done at a number of points has always disclosed coal in paying quantities at various depths.

The mineral wealth of the county is practically confined to its coal fields, altho some quarrying has been done south of Eureka, near what is now known as the Rock Quarry school. Considerable quantities of lime stone were taken from this quarry in former years. Buildings erected years ago frequently had this material used in the construction of the foundation or in the cellar walls. The quarry has not been in operation for a number of years.

Altho borings at various places have disclosed coal veins of varying thickness, there are but two mines in operation at this time. A number of years ago an unsuccessful effort was made to sink a shaft at Eureka. A statement of the drilling done by G. W. Darling shows a two-foot vein of splendid coal at a depth of 204 feet, and a three-foot vein of coal of harder quality at a depth of 290 feet. Trouble in sinking the shaft, prevented its completion, so that the abandoned shaft is now used as a city well.

The mines now in operation, have been in use a number of years, the quality of the coal mined being such as to give it a ready sale.

#### THE MINONK MINE.

The first mine to be put in operation in Woodford county was that in Minonk. It was sunk in 1869 by a stock company. It was

first sunk to a depth of 329 feet, but it was found that the vein at that depth did not make it possible to operate the mine on a paying basis. The company was re-organized and the mine was sunk to the depth of 550 feet. At this depth coal of excellent quality was found, and an extensive business was built up.

Later it was decided to sink another shaft, and a location north of the first mine was selected. This mine is now operated by the Minonk Mining company. The report of Charles Martin, mine inspector for Woodford county, shows that during the year ending June 30th, 1913, 58,627 tons of coal were mined. During the same period his report shows that 393 men were employed. The mine is located just north of the Illinois Central tracks and it has convenient railroad connections with both the Santa Fe and Illinois Central railroads. Aside from supplying the coal trade, great quantities of coal are shipped to various points in Illinois. The quality of this coal is such as to secure for it a ready market.

### THE ROANOKE MINE.

The second mine to be put in successful operation in this county was located at Roanoke. In 1881 a company, of which Peter Kennel, Isaac Snyder and Peter Belsley, were the chief investors, was organized. A shaft was sunk in the east part of town. A fine quality of coal was found at the depth of 480 feet. Two other veins were reached before this depth, but these did not give promise of such rich returns and were passed. In 1889 the property was sold to the Roanoke Coal Mining Company, and it is now operated under that name.

It is located on the Pekin branch of the Santa Fe railway, and much of its trade is with towns located along that road. An extensive business has been built up, reaching from Chicago to Fort Madison.

The vein is known as a three-foot vein, and supplies a quality of coal that is rarely excelled for general purposes. The output of the mine is from 500 to 600 tons per day. The coal after being mined is elevated to the surface, is screened and sold as different grades of coal. There are two general grades of coal, the screened and the egg coal. The grade, however, va-



ries with size of the screen, a one and three-quarters, a three or four inch screen being used.

This company employs from 250 to 300 men, the number varying from time to time. These men work eight hours a day, going on duty at 7:00 a. m. and stopping work at 3:30 p. m., taking a half hour for dinner. The men are paid according to the quantity of coal mined, many of the men being able to make very satisfactory wages. There are, of course, men on duty at the mine day and night, but the regular shift works between the hours above mentioned.

Aside from the men regularly employed in the mine there are other industries more or less intimately connected with that industry. Great quantities of props are used in the mine to prevent the falling of great masses of material on the heads of men while working. These props are usually made in the neighboring timber regions and are hauled or shipped to Roanoke. The mine pays a very satisfactory price for good props.

Great quantities of shale are taken out of the mine each day. This has accumulated near the mine, until the huge pile has reached a height of many feet. A part of this material is used in the manufacture of brick and tile. The firm making use of this material is known as the American Clay Product Company.

A mine inspector is now employed who spends two days each month in each of the mines of county, inspecting them to see that the laws governing the operations of coal mines are observed, and that the safety of the men employed is provided for. His salary is paid by the county.

### THE CANNING INDUSTRY.

One of the important and growing industries of Woodford county is the canning business. It is only within the past few years that this has risen to such prominence but each year witnesses an extension of its work and a relative increase of its importance.

This growth has been based upon a natural increase in the demand for canned goods. It has been realized that canned goods put up in a region in which conditions are such as to permit a

specialty being made of a high class of products, are much more sanitary than those products that are brought from a distance and peddled thru the city, in a stale, unhealthy condition.

There are two large factories located in the county; one at El Paso, operated by the Prairie State Canning Co., and the other at Eureka, owned and operated by Dickinson & Co. The latter firm also own an extensive factory at Washington, a few miles west of the border of this county. The institutions are of special importance since practically all the raw material is produced in the locality of the factory, and means the expenditure of thousands of dollars annually, aside from that paid directly to those employed in the factory itself.

### THE EUREKA FACTORY.

The older of the above named institutions is that located at Eureka. A number of years ago a factory was erected there by a stock company, but the venture was not a success. Later R. B. Dickinson & Co. purchased the plant, moved it to a site just east of the depot, and soon built up a growing, prosperous business. It was originally the intention to can corn and tomatoes, but the latter were found to give a very unsatisfactory crop and that line was ultimately abandoned.

The factory now cans peas, corn and pumpkins, corn being the principal pack. The season opens with the pea crop. Preparations for planting peas are carried on very carefully. The seed bed is thoroly prepared, as they require a fine seed bed. The seed are then put in with a drill. The season is divided into three parts. The first planting is done as soon as the soil and the weather permit. As soon as the first planting is up the second is begun and as soon as the second is up the third is begun. Peas are not cultivated, except to harrow them just before coming up. When ready for canning they are harvested like green clover hay, and loaded on to wagons to be taken to the factory. A vining machine threshes out the peas, and they then go thru a fan and later a washing machine. They are then sorted and graded, the grading being based on both size and tenderness. The peas are filled into cans sealed and cooked.

A by-product of peas is the silage that is secured from the vines. Stock will not, as a rule, touch the pea vines while growing, yet, like the silage they produce, it being almost equal to green clover hay. It is rich in protein, and a good food. The pea season usually begins from the 10th to the 15th of June, and continues until about June 30. When the peas are purchased from the farmers they are paid for by the pound of shelled peas, the price ranging from one to three cents per pound, according to quality. At this price peas become a profitable crop.

The corn season follows next. The preparation of the field is the same as that for field corn. The planting usually begins about the 1st of May and continues until the 15th of June. The plantings are uniformly distributed during the season. The season's pack usually begins about the 15th of August and continues until the latter part of September. When ready for use the ears are snapped from the stalk and taken to the factory, husk and all. It is paid for at the rate of about \$8.00 per ton. The yield ranging from two to four tons per acre. The corn is husked by machinery, washed, sorted, silked, cut from the cob and put in cans ready for cooking. Machinery is utilized for almost all these operations and great quantities of corn can be canned in a day.

The shucks and cobs are stored in a great silo, and this is sold during the fall and winter to farmers having stock. It is an excellent food and all the farm animals like it. The silage usually lasts until toward spring.

Oats when planted on land on which a crop of sweet corn was raised, yield better than when planted on land on which a crop of field corn was raised. The fodder from which the sweet corn has been taken is cut when green and makes excellent food for stock.

Pumpkins for the factory are planted about the last of May. The young plant is bothered a great deal by a variety of beetle. If planted late it is safer from the ravages of this pest. The seeds are planted with a planter, the same as corn, and the cultivation is the same. Occasionally when the corn on a field is too thin, pumpkins are planted in the field. The pumpkin season usually begins shortly after the close of the packing season for corn.



Pumpkins are brought in and stored in the shucking sheds. They are also purchased by the ton.

The products of this company find a ready sale, as it puts up a high grade of goods. Their goods are distributed thru many of the states of the union, the firm making extensive sales in Illinois, Indiana, Texas, New York, California, Tennessee, as well as other states.

The matter of the selection of seed for planting is one of great importance. In the selection of corn, the plan recommended by the State University is followed with good results. In the selection of pumpkin seeds the best specimens are selected as they go thru the factory, and the seeds are saved from these.

Cans are purchased in great quantities, the factory at Eureka and Washington using about 7,500,000 cans during the season. This means about 75 car loads. The lumber for the boxes is also bought in great quantities. It is cut the proper lengths and is ready to put together. About 300,000 boxes are used each year. These cases hold two dozen of No. 2 size cans. The two factories employ in the busy season about 500 men, exclusive of those who are hauling.

#### THE PRAIRIE STATE CANNING COMPANY.

One of the most recent additions to the industrial life of this county is the new canning plant located at El Paso. It is located in the western part of the city near the T., P. & W. right-of-way. It covers a large area, and the buildings are large brick structures, built according to the most modern plans. The plant was erected with a view to making provision for a healthy growth. At present two lines of machinery are in operation, altho there are provisions for four lines when the needs of the business require their use.

It is expected that the plant will extend its canning to other lines as opportunity offers. At present corn and hominy are the products. The first hominy canned was put up this year. Should this feature prove successful, it will be continued.

Following the example of the canning factories thru the state the acreage of corn is cut down this year to about 1,100 acres, but the usual acreage is about 1,500 acres.

The corn is all raised by farmers living near El Paso. The ears are plucked from the stalk, and hauled to the factory where it is paid for by the ton. The process of canning brings into use many labor-saving devices. Every precaution is taken to make each step in the process as sanitary as possible so that the product is both pure and of a fine quality. No solder is used in the factory, the cans being crimped.

The product is shipped to many states, the company having an extensive trade in the eastern and southern states.

Care is taken to keep the silage. Great quantities of it are stored in the silo in connection with the plant. This is either fed to stock owned by the company or is sold by the ton to the farmers in the vicinity. Those who are familiar with its value as food for stock are anxious to secure it.

The past year the company fed a herd of cattle at the factory. They have found that the feeding of silage brings the best results when accompanied with some food for roughness, such as alfalfa. One test made showed that a herd of 66 cattle made an average gain of five pounds per head per day during a period of four weeks. This proves the value of this product as a food for stock.

### THE EL PASO CARNATION COMPANY.

One of the interesting features of the commercial life of Woodford county is the large hot house belonging to the El Paso Carnation Company, and located near the T., P. & W. tracks in the eastern part of El Paso. The plant has been in operation for several years, and in 1911 the company was incorporated under the above title. The eleven buildings have about 30,000 square feet of glass and cover a large area. The company has built up an extensive business, as it supplies the floral trade and makes the design work for many surrounding towns. It also ships to Chicago, selling to the wholesale market of that city. The company does all its own propagating of new plants, and raises a great variety of them.

Carnations furnish one of the leading products and they have thousands of growing and blooming plants. Aside from these they cultivate roses, sweet peas, violets, ferns, geraniums, hyacinths, tulips and other pot plants.

In the winter they raise lettuce and radishes for the winter market and in the spring they raise tomato, cabbage and other plants for the garden.

The plant is heated by steam, various temperatures being required for different flowers. An average temperature of from 65 to 67 degrees Fahrenheit, is usually required in the day time for roses and from 56 to 58 degrees at night. The temperature required by carnations is not so high, a temperature of 48 to 50 degrees is usually maintained during the night and about 55 degrees in the day time.

The hot house is an interesting place to visit, not only on account of the beautiful flowers, but because of the many interesting features connected with propogration and cultivation of plants.

C. L. W. Snyder, the manager, also one of the incorporators, has been associated with the plant since its beginning, and is the official florist of the T. P. & W. R. R. having supervision of the flower beds and planting out on the system.

#### MINONK PRODUCE COMPANY.

The large plant of the Minonk Produce Company is located at Minonk, Woodford county, and is doing a wholesale produce business. This firm gathers poultry and eggs from a territory covering forty miles circling Minonk. Eggs after being brought in are sorted into several grades as to color, size and quality, and shipped to Eastern cities in car loads, consisting of 400 cases in a car, each case holding 30 dozen eggs, making 12,000 dozen in a carload. Butter is packed into barrels which are lined with vegetable parchment paper and is shipped in car load lots to butter refineries, where it is melted into butter fat and rechurned. All impurities are taken out of it and the butter put into 1 and 2 pound packages and shipped to the Southern States. The poultry is the most interesting part of the business, as this is fattened, killed and dressed and then packed into boxes holding one dozen birds. This poultry is sorted as to color, size, age and weight and shipped to Eastern markets and to Europe. The output of this plant is about 30,000 cases of eggs, 400,000 pounds of butter and over 2,000,000 pounds of poultry and some 3,500,000 gallons

of cream every year. From this plant was shipped the first barrel<sup>1</sup> of ice packed dressed poultry ever shipped to Boston, Mass., which trade has now increased until ice packed poultry is now being shipped from all western states to the eastern markets in car loads. This firm has just erected a cold storage plant for the purpose of ice-cooling poultry so that it can be shipped in the hottest weather in refrigerating cars without being first ice packed.

#### POWER WASHER FACTORY.

One of the most recent additions to the industrial life of this county is that of the manufacturing of power washing machines, which is carried on by Altorfer Brothers Company at Roanoke. The factory was erected in 1911 and so rapid has been the growth of the enterprise that it was necessary to practically double the size of the factory in 1912.

The firm does business thru its representatives all over the United States, in Canada and some foreign countries. The washer is so constructed that any form of power may be used, and its serviceability has won for it a ready reception on the market. The machines are shipped in carload lots to Portland, Philadelphia, New York City, Utica, Toledo, Milwaukee, Omaha, St. Joe, Minneapolis, Peoria, St. Louis, Kansas City and an agency has just been established in Dallas, Texas. Steel and the hard wood for the construction of these machines is received in car load lots. A number of men are employed in this factory.

#### THE BRICK AND TILE INDUSTRY.

Two brick and tile yards are in operation in Woodford county at present. The one is the American Clay Product Company, located near the Roanoke mine. This company does an extensive business in the manufacture of both brick and tile. The shale from the mine furnishes them with an abundance of good material.

Goodwin Brothers operate a brick and tile yard at Minonk. Their plant is located in the southern part of the city. Their products not only supply the home market but they ship much to other places. They employ a number of men.



## GRAIN ELEVATORS.

A factory for the manufacture of grain elevators is located at Eureka. It is growing and promises to become an important institution. These elevators are sold to farmers who place them in their bins. They do away with the burdensome handling of grain. They have been installed in many places in this and other states.

## FENCE FACTORY.

A factory that is doing an extensive business is that of Hohulin Bros., of Goodfield, who manufacture various kinds of fences. One of their important styles is known as the diamond link wire fence made of galvanized iron. The link is formed so as not to crack the enamel. Another style is the steel picket fence. This fence is metal thruout, no wood being used in its structure. Another style is the wood picket, used with the steel post and railing. This firm puts up all fences sold, and has a business extending over much of Central Illinois.

## CHAPTER VII

### A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE COUNTY. THE INDIANS.

Long before the white man visited the region now embraced within the borders of Woodford county it was the home of the Indian. How far back this occupation dates no one knows. Within the memory of the older settlers of the county, Indians were occasionally seen in the less thickly settled regions. A few still survive, who remember hearing their parents tell of the dangers of the Black Hawk war, and of the fears that were entertained that the Indian chief and his followers might direct their course southward and invade the newly settled country. So real was this fear that settlers in the sparsely settled regions of this newly opened territory moved their families to places of greater safety. Henry B. Meek was captain of the home guards in this county and organized a little band of men for the protection of their homes in case of an Indian invasion.

There are still various evidences of a previous occupation of this territory by the Indians. Among the most interesting of these are the Indian mounds, a number of which are located along the banks of the Illinois river. These have attracted much interest, and those that have been opened give evidence of having been constructed by the Indians. Indian skeletons are still frequently found in certain portions of the county. Several have been found in the vicinity of Spring Bay, while making excavations for new buildings. Indian arrow heads and other relics are occasionally found. The Pottawatomies had a few scattered representatives in this region when the whites first came to take possession of it. There were, however, other tribes that roamed over this region, among these were the Sacs and the Foxes.

The following stirring incident, while not enacted on Woodford county soil, occurred within but a few miles of its border and serves to throw light on the Indian life in the western portions of

what afterward became this county. LaSalle and his followers, while on their famous journey of exploration down the Illinois river, came in due time to the point where the river broadens into Peoria Lake. They floated out on the lake, passed the western border of this county and as they proceeded on their journey many columns of smoke gave evidence that they were approaching Indian wigwams. As they turned the bend in the river, the Indian camp lay before them. The sight of the approaching boats threw the Indians into wild commotion, and both sides prepared for the fight. The Indians advanced with the pipe of peace, however, and the struggle that might have ended disastrously for La Salle and his men was averted. It was in this camp, that Monso, a Mascoutin chief, sought to poison the minds of these Indians against La Salle, a movement which resulted in the desertion of six of his men. An attempt was also made on the life of the explorer, and he resolved to leave the camp at once. He did so and built a fort a short distance to the south, which he christened Fort Creve Coeur.

This shows, perhaps more perfectly than any other single event the nature of the people who preceded us in the occupation of this region. While we have no direct evidence that La Salle or his men ever set foot on Woodford county soil, yet the stirring events occurring so close the borders of the county, indicate that he may have done so, at one time or another.

#### THE EARLY SETTLERS.

The early settlers did not begin to come to this region until shortly after 1820, altho it is said that a man named Bleylock led a rather wandering life in the western portion of the county as early as 1819. The data concerning the residence of this man is somewhat unreliable but it is generally supposed that he lived in the southern part of what is now Partridge township. The first settler was quickly followed by others, and soon settlements had been formed in the western part of the county near the present sites of Spring Bay and Metamora. Other settlements were made at Walnut Grove near Eureka and also along Panther Creek.

The early settler underwent many hardships in coming into this unsettled territory. Not only was the journey fraught with dangers but the establishment of a new home in the midst of an almost unbroken wilderness required courage, perseverance, and the spirit of sacrifice. Roads were unbroken, no bridges crossed the streams, and the nearest village was many miles distant. Under these conditions, the pioneer developed a sturdy self dependence that won and retained for him a recognized place in the history of the growth and development of the county and state.

The first settlers lived in log cabins usually consisting of but one room. Some of these were built of the rough, unhewn logs, with the cracks daubed with a crude kind of plaster, made from clay, while others were more carefully built from the hewn logs. Before the coming of the saw mill, floors were made from rough boards, split from trees. The fire place from which the cabin was heated, and over which the cooking was done, occupied a prominent place on one side of the room. In the timber regions of this county one still occasionally finds a log cabin used as a place of residence.

The land was unbroken and undrained and there devolved on the sturdy settler the task of bringing the virgin soil under cultivation. Markets were many miles distant and it was no uncommon occurrence for a man to take grain or stock to Chicago, the journey being made with teams or the stock was driven thru. With no physician within a radius of many miles it became necessary that the settler be his own physician, and simple home remedies were called into frequent use.

Not only were garments worn by all the members of the family home-made, but the fabrics from which they were made were the products of skillful hands of the housewife. Linen, linsey and jeans were the materials from which garments were made for the various members of the household.

Hospitality, such as is now unknown, prevailed among these pioneers. It was no uncommon occurrence for the family to surrender the use of their beds to strangers asking for a night's lodging, while the members of the household slept on the floor.



The social life drew the settlers closer together, and contributed much to the pleasure of their simple manner of life.

Game was plentiful, both in the timber and on the prairie. Wild turkeys, deer, wolves and foxes, to say nothing of the smaller game, were found in great numbers, and the pioneer frequently became a skillful hunter. Snakes were numerous, and sometimes caused considerable annoyance.

The greatest danger, and the one that created the greatest dread with both man and beast was the prairie fire. It swept with irresistible force across the prairies leaving a dreary waste in its trail. Animals fled before it, in stricken fear, not daring to pause lest the hungry flames overtake and destroy them. The charred remains of many of these bore witness to the fact that great numbers failed to make good their escape. As the country became more thickly settled, the hardships that had confronted the pioneer gradually melted away. Roads were laid out, bridges were constructed, the prairies were broken and the land drained, soon the county was crossed and crossed again by railroads, so that many of the deprivations of the pioneer became a matter of history, while many of the simple joys experienced by the early settlers have become a thing of the past.

The early settler travelled on foot or on horseback, when making a journey until a stage coach line began operation thru the county. One of these passed thru Hanover, now Metamora, and another passed thru Versailles and Bowling Green. It was not until 1854, when the Illinois Central was completed, that a railroad was put in operation. The coming of travel and transportation by rail changed the industrial life of the county and had much to do with shaping the history of the county.

#### PERMANENT SETTLEMENTS MADE.

The first postoffice was established at Black Partridge, near Metamora, in 1836. It was named for the great Indian chief, Black Partridge. Shortly afterward a postoffice was found still nearer the present site of Metamora which was named Partridge Point. It was not until the year of 1836 that villages were platted. In that year four of these were established, the records of

two of them being filed in Tazewell county and two of them in McLean county. Of these Bowling Green was the first, it being platted March 7th, 1836, Tazewell, afterward Spring Bay, was established April 2nd, 1836, Versailles, June 3rd, 1836, and Hanover, later Metamora, June 7th, 1836. Two of these villages, as has previously been stated, have passed out of existence, and linger only in the memory of the older citizens.

### THE COUNTY ORGANIZES.

At the time the first settlers came to this county this region was a part of Sangamon county, and anyone having business to transact at the county seat did so at Springfield. This continued until 1825. In 1830 this territory was embraced in Tazewell and McLean counties, the dividing line being a north and south line thru what is now College street in Eureka. As the settlements grew, there was talk of the organization of a new county. Thomas Bullock and others prominent in the civic life of Versailles and vicinity secured the passage of a law by the state legislature in 1841, forming a new county, which was called Woodford for Woodford county, Kentucky, the former home of Mr. Bullock and some of the residents of Versailles. The law carried with it the provision that Versailles should remain the county seat for two years. At the end of that time the permanent location was to be submitted to a vote of the people. The matter was never submitted, however, as before that time the law was amended to provide for the selection of a site by a commission of five members.

The people of Versailles, the newly chosen seat of justice, provided a school house for the use of the county officials and this answered the purpose of a court room. On April 13th, 1841, the persons elected met in Versailles to complete the organization of the county. It was then managed by three commissioners instead of a board of supervisors, as at present. The first county officers were as follows: Commissioners, Joseph Meek, Walnut Grove; James Boys, Hanover; Josiah Moore, Bowling Greene; probate judge, J. B. Holland; sheriff, Wm. S. Magarity; circuit clerk, S. J. Cross; county clerk, John J. Perry, coroner, Wm. Hoshor; treasurer, James S. McCord; assessor,

Joshua Woosley; collector, Wm. Rockwell; surveyor, S. S. Parks.

The first session of court was held at Versailles in September, 1841, with Judge Sameul H. Treat on the bench. It was an occasion of great importance to the people of the county, and it was attended by many for miles around. Men laid aside their work to attend court. Among the attorneys in attendance were the following: Abraham Lincoln, Col. Ed. D. Baker, known as the silver tongued orator; David Davis, known as an attorney and later as a judge, Stephen P. Logan, at one time a partner with Lincoln, John J. Harding, John T. Steward and A. Gridley.

The new county seat soon became quite a flourishing little village, but the hopes of its people for the permanent location of the court at Versailles were blasted by the action of the special commissioners, whose duty it was to select a county seat, when the choice fell on Hanover, now Metamora. In 1843 the records were removed to the new seat of justice. The court house that was erected at that time is still standing at Metamora, altho additions have been made to it since its erection. It is now used as a public hall. Many prominent men have argued cases in this historic building. Among these are found the names of Abraham Lincoln, Robert G. Ingersoll, Adlai Stevenson, Stephen A. Douglas and others prominent in the state and nation.

An important change in the government of the county took place in 1854, when township organization was adopted by a vote of the people. The change was not made without a bitter fight and it required several elections to finally carry the proposition. For thirteen years the county had been under the control of commissioners. They had administered the affairs of the county wisely, but its growth and extending interests seemed to demand a closer system of supervision in civic affairs and the new plan of organization was instituted.

### THE WAR CLOUD.

During the years of excitement preceding the Civil War Woodford county was the scene of much excitement, and disputes over the question of slavery frequently ran high. One branch of the famous Underground railroad, passed thru Wood-

ford county. There were those in the county whose hearts went out to the fugitive slave and who were willing to make any sacrifice to help him on his way to Canada, where he would be free. Fugitives came into Woodford county from what was called Deacon street between Morton and Tremont. They passed around Washington, which was regarded as unfriendly to the fugitive slave, and came to the home of Deacon Dutton, between Washington and Metamora, which was one of the stations. From there they were taken to Morsetown, as the region in which the Morse family had settled, was called. This is about a mile and a half south of the present site of Cazenovia. From there fugitives were taken to a station north of Magnolia, where another rest was taken at the home of a quaker named Lewis.

At the present time there is but one of the conductors on this Underground railroad, who is still living in this county. This is J. M. Ranney, who resides near the Morsetown settlement, south of Cazenovia. He remembers the exciting experiences of those days very distinctly. He describes his experiences on one of these trips, while he was yet a boy. The journey was made at night, and was fraught with considerable danger, as discovery might mean arrest and conviction, as well as the return of the slave to his master. He reached the home north of Magnolia which was his destination about 3 o'clock in the morning. These trips were made with the greatest secrecy. The fugitive was concealed during the day and the various steps in the journey were made at night. Sometimes the escaping slave was concealed in a load of some product of the farm, which, the driver was pretending to take from one place to another.

These trips were more hazardous because of the rewards offered for the capture of slaves. Bills were frequently seen offering \$50 or \$100 for the capture of some runaway boy or girl, as the slaves were termed. Sometimes the rewards were even larger. Because of the incentive held out by these rewards, conductors on this road were careful to choose the quiet roads and to avoid the towns as much as possible. Altho secrecy was observed the work of these conductors was suspicioned in the community. Occasionally a protest was heard, but the general policy was one of noninterference on the part of the people.



During the famous campaign of 1858, when Lincoln and Douglas were rival candidates for the United States senate, each of these men spoke in this county. Metamora was not, however, one of the seven cities in which a joint debate was held between these great antagonists, but the addresses were delivered about a week apart, Douglas making his appearance Sept 30th, 1858, while Lincoln spoke on the following Thursday, Oct. 7th. Thousands of people gathered to hear these men. There was a great display of party loyalty, shown by means of long processions, numerous banners, and much enthusiasm. The spot on which these addresses were made has been marked by the Woodford County Historical Society, a huge boulder, bearing the date on which the notable events occurred, having been placed on the site, which is just south of Meamora.

As the war cloud became darker, the people of Woodford county became more pronounced in their views on the great question of the hour. When the storm broke many soldiers from this county were on the field to take an active part in the defense of the Union. At the breaking out of the war the population was 13,281, out of which number 1,643 soldiers were accredited to this county during the four years of struggle. All that was possible was done to prevent a draft, but it was necessary to resort to drafting in some townships. Substitutes were employed, where the one drafted did not wish to go. Various figures were paid for these substitutes ranging from \$500 to \$1,000. A bounty was offered by the government to encourage enlistment, and in addition to this townships also offered a liberal bounty hoping in this way to avoid a draft. In other instances a group of men would bind themselves together for mutual protection against draft. For example ten men would form a club. If one of the number was drafted each of the ten would pay one tenth of the cost of employing a substitute for him. During these years of struggle men and women who remained at home encouraged those on the field by every means at their command.

#### EDUCATIONAL INTERESTS.

The settlers who came here soon became interested in the cause of education and as early as 1830 a school was established

in the county. As the number of settlers increased, schools multiplied and the desire for school training grew. The earliest school buildings were rude log houses, with an opening in the side to admit light and a great fireplace on one side. The seats were made from hewn logs with pegs driven in the bottom for legs. These were without backs and were in marked contrast to the highly polished, adjustable desk and seat of the present day. These schools were supported by the contributions of the patrons, and it was not until a number of years afterward that the first free school was taught by Miss Love Morse. The first school officer to look after the school work of the county was known as a county commissioner of schools. The first one to hold this position was Matthew Bracken. In 1865 the name of this position was changed to county superintendent of schools, the first one to hold this position after this change being John Buckingham.

The following data gathered from the report of the commissioner of schools for the year ending Oct. 1st, 1860:

Number of male teachers .....	65
Number of female teachers .....	45
Average number of pupils taught by each teacher ....	35
Average monthly salary paid men .....	29.08
Average monthly salary paid women .....	18.53
Average number of months taught .....	6 $\frac{3}{4}$
Number of pupils enrolled in the county .....	3163
Total received for all school purposes .....	\$18,332.58

The above figures are interesting when compared with the report of the county superintendent for the year ending June 30th, 1913:

Number of male teachers .....	21
Number of female teachers .....	146
Average monthly salary for men .....	82.75
Average monthly salary for women .....	57.35
Average number of months taught .....	8
Number of pupils enrolled .....	4312
Total expended for school purposes .....	\$154,955.50

An important feature of the educational life of the county is Eureka College. This institution was opened in 1848 and

was first known as Walnut Grove Academy. The newly organized institution met with popular favor and grew so rapidly that in 1855 it was chartered as Eureka College. Since its organization the influence of this institution has been felt in educational circles throughout the state. It has sent out more than six hundred graduates. Of these seven have become presidents of colleges or Normal schools. One has been a governor of a state, another of a territory, others have represented their districts in congress and in the state legislature while many other prominent places have been held by others who have graduated from this institution. Recent additions to the endowment fund of the college seem to insure a long continuance of its useful career.

The Low Point Academy, with Prof. J. E. Lamb as principal at one time promised to become a useful institution, but it was destroyed by fire in 1877, and was never rebuilt.

### THE COUNTY SEAT.

Metamora, which became the county seat in 1843, was not to retain this distinction without protest. Contest after contest was held for the removal of the seat of justice to one of the other of the villages of the county, but for a half century Metamora retained its prize. Roanoke and Eureka were the most persistent competitors for the county seat, altho in 1867 El Paso entered the race, offering to pay \$30,000 toward the expense of erecting new buildings, on condition that the county seat be located at El Paso. In 1894 the final contest occurred, the vote being taken in November of that year, the vote standing 2595 for removal to Eureka and 1960 votes against removal. It was not until the matter had been carried to the Supreme court that the change from Metamora to Eureka was made. In 1897 the present court house was erected. A few months later the building, now in use as a jail and sheriff's residence was built, and the county is now well supplied with buildings.

In 1867 Woodford county purchased land for a county farm. And a building was erected for the poor of the county. This was greatly enlarged and improved in 1903. The farm contains 240 acres.

## THE COUNTY'S DEVELOPMENT.

The county's growth and development was very satisfactory. Soon the region was changed from an unsettled wilderness to a country in which numerous villages had sprung into existence, and in which the broad, fertile prairies contributed of their richness to the growing wealth of a prosperous people. Great changes were evident as a result of this growth. All unoccupied regions were settled, mills were erected in which grain was made fit for use. Saw mills were built and in the course of time frame houses took the place of the little log cabin. Roads were laid out and bridges were built so that travel between farm and village became convenient and safe. In no respect has the progress of the county been more evident than in the advance of land. In the early history of this region land could be secured from the government at \$1.25 per acre. Fifty years after the settlement of the county it ranged in price from \$40 to \$50 per acre, the latter price being considered high at that time. The price has continued to advance until now the best land is valued at \$300 and occasionally even more per acre. No single agent has done more to bring about this increase in values than the railroads that have made possible easy transportation to the markets of the nation.

## CIVICS.

The civics of the county and the smaller divisions of the county form a valuable basis for beginning the study of civics. It is the purpose of this chapter to give as concisely as possible a statement of those things in connection with the civic life of the county and its smaller divisions that every child should know.

## THE SCHOOL DISTRICT.

One of the important divisions of the county is the school district. Each of these is laid out under the direction of school trustees. There is no absolute rule governing the size of these districts, altho they are usually two miles square. Trustees are governed by the character of the territory and the population, in determining the area of districts. Those in sparsely settled timber regions, in which much of the land is hilly, and consequently low in value, are much larger than in the prairie regions.



There are 113 districts in Woodford county. The number in each township varies from three in Partridge township to ten each in Panola and Cazenovia townships.

In districts having less than 1,000 inhabitants the control is vested in a board of directors of three members, while districts having a population of 1,000 or more, are governed by a board of education. Four districts in this county have a sufficient population to secure a board of education. These are the districts in which the Washburn, Roanoke, Minonk and Eureka schools are located. In each instance the board is composed of six members elected for three years and a president elected for one year. El Paso would be entitled to such a board were it not that the district line passes thru the central part of the city, making two districts, neither of which has the population required for a board of education.

Directors serve three years, one being elected each year in districts governed by a board of directors, and two each year in those districts controlled by a board of education. The election is held on the third Saturday of April each year.

The powers and duties of directors are as follows:

- (a) To levy taxes, and to draw orders on the treasurer to defray the expense of maintaining a school in the district.
- (b) To employ a teacher and to have general control of the work of the school.
- (c) To select text books and decide as to the work to be given.
- (d) To keep the school building and equipment in repair, and to erect new buildings when so directed by a vote of the people.
- (e) To provide for a school library and the purchase of books.
- (f) To make an annual report to the voters of the district of all receipts and expenditures.
- (g) To make an annual report of statistics to the school treasurer.

Boards of directors are authorized to levy a tax not to exceed  $1\frac{1}{2}\%$  on the assessed valuation for general school purposes and  $1\frac{1}{2}\%$  for building purposes.

A recently enacted school law makes it possible for a school board on a vote of the people of the district to levy two per cent

for general school purposes, and one per cent for building purposes. In no case shall the total levy exceed 3%.

The sources of revenue for school purposes are as follows:

1. Tax levy. 2. Interest on the township fund, which was derived from the sale of section 16 in each township. 3. Distributive fund, which consists of the apportionment of the state fund and fines. 4. Interest on any endowment fund owned by the district.

The directors of Woodford county maintain a county organization, with annual meetings. While there is no provision in the law for such an organization, it has proved very helpful in advancing the interests of the schools of the county.

#### THE TOWNSHIP.

Woodford county voted to organize under the township organization law in 1854, and the year following the new system went into effect, the first meeting of a board of supervisors was held at Metamora, April 16th, 1855. The system took the place of one in which three commissioners had control of the affairs of the county. It had a tendency to bring the government more closely home to the people, giving each officer control of a much smaller area.

The annual town meeting for the choice of town officers and the transaction of business pertaining to the town is held the first Tuesday of April. The polls are opened at 7 A. M. and closed at 5 P. M. At an appointed hour, the polls are closed and the miscellaneous business of the meeting is taken up. The meeting is presided over by a moderator chosen by the voters present, while the town clerk keeps a record of the proceedings. The town is the only division in which the people have direct control of the civil affairs. Every voter is entitled to attend this meeting and take a part in the transaction of its business. The voters present decide on the amount of money to be raised by taxation for town purposes. They receive and act upon the reports of officers for the year, and take action on any other matters of business that pertain to the town.

#### TOWN OFFICERS.

**SUPERVISOR**—One of the important officers of the town is the supervisor. He is elected biennially, part of the officers be-

ing chosen the odd numbered years and part the even numbered, so that at least half the board is made up of experienced members each year. In Woodford county, Minonk, Clayton, Spring Bay, Worth, Panola, Metamora, ElPaso, Montgomery, Kansas, elect the odd numbered years, while Linn, Cazenovia, Partridge, Roanoke, Greene, Palestine, Olio and Cruger elect on the even numbered years. The most important duties of the supervisor are as follows: He is a member of the county board and as such is to attend all meetings of the board. He is overseer of the poor of the town. He receives and pays out all funds for the town. On Tuesday preceding the annual town meeting he must report all receipts and expenditures to the board of auditors.

**TOWN CLERK**—The town clerk has custody of all records of the town. He keeps a record of the proceedings of the town meeting, of the meetings of the auditors, and of the highway commissioners. He sends the certificate of tax levy to the town clerk on or before the second Tuesday of August. The town clerk is elected biennially in the even numbered years.

**ASSESSOR**—It is the duty of the assessor to set a value on the property of each property holder of the town. Before beginning his work he receives instruction from the county treasurer, who is supervisor of assessments. Property is assessed at what is considered a fair cash value. This amount divided by three gives the assessed valuation. The assessor's books are returned to the supervisor of assessments, who turns them over to the county clerk. A board of review, composed of the chairman of the board of supervisors, and two members appointed by the county judge, review assessments made and make any changes or additions they deem necessary. Once in five years the real estate is re-assessed. The assessor is elected for two years.

**COLLECTOR**—The tax collector sees to the collection of taxes of the town, paying the amounts over to the proper authorities. He receives as compensation 2% of the amount actually collected. The collector is elected for two years.

All real estate tax that he is unable to collect he returns to the treasurer as delinquent tax.

**HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER**—Each town is entitled to three highway commissioners elected for three years, one being elected each year.

After the next election the supervisor will be treasurer of the highway commissioners. The new road law also provides that the number of commissioners may be reduced from three to one on the vote of the people.

Their chief duties are as follows: To establish, alter or vacate roads. To keep all bridges in repair. To build new bridges. In case the commissioners have levied to the limit in the township, the board of supervisors will aid them in erecting any bridge costing over two hundred dollars. The committee from the board of supervisors acts with the commissioners in building such bridges, the county bearing one-half the expense. To levy road and bridge tax, which can not exceed 6-10 of one per cent. To provide for the drainage of highways.

**JUSTICES OF THE PEACE**—These officers are elected for four years, and have jurisdiction in the following cases: Civil suits in which the amount in dispute does not exceed \$200; original jurisdiction in cases of misdemeanor, when the punishment is by fine and the same is \$200 or less. A justice may also conduct a preliminary hearing to decide whether or not there is sufficient evidence against parties charged with a crime to warrant binding them over to appear before the grand jury.

**CONSTABLES**—These officers are also elected for a term of four years. The duties of constables are to keep peace, make arrests of persons found violating the law, and to serve writs issued by justices or magistrates.

**THE BOARD OF AUDITORS**—This board is composed of the supervisors, town clerk, and justices of the peace. It holds two meetings a year, audits all claims against the town, and receives the reports of the commissioners and the supervisor.

**THE BOARD OF HEALTH**—This board is composed of the supervisor, assessor and town clerk. It has charge of all precautions for the safeguarding of the health of the people. It makes whatever regulations are necessary to prevent the spread of contagious diseases in the community.



## VILLAGES AND CITIES.

Any city of 1,000 population or more may organize as a city under the general law. It is no longer possible for cities to obtain special charters, granting special privileges, mentioned in the charter, but several towns so organized still maintain their organization. Minonk, Eureka, El Paso are organized as cities. Roanoke, Benson, Metamora, Secor, and Washburn are organized as villages; while Kappa, Panola and Spring Bay are known as towns.

The legislative body in the village is known as the board of trustees, while in the city it is known as the city council. In each case the members are elected for two years. The presiding officer in the board of trustees is a village president, elected for two years, while the presiding officer of the city council is the mayor, also chosen for two years. The annual election of city officers occurs the third Tuesday in April. The powers of the board of trustees or of the city council are as follows: To levy tax for village or city purposes. To pass ordinances for the government of the village or city, fixing penalties for their violation, but in no case shall the penalty exceed a fine of two hundred dollars, or an imprisonment for six months. To act on the appointments of the mayor. To provide for the laying of pavement, building of sidewalks or maintenance of streets in the village or city limits. To provide water for the inhabitants of the city. To make provisions for lighting the city. To control the granting of licenses. To take measures to safeguard the health of the people. To fix the compensation of all city officers. To audit all claims.

**MAYOR**—The mayor is the chief executive officer of the city. He presides over the meetings of the city council. He signs or refuses to sign all ordinances passed. In case of a veto an ordinance may be passed over the mayor's veto by a two-thirds vote. He appoints certain officers, subject to their approval by the city council. He sees to the enforcement of the law, and to the protection of the interests of the city.

**THE CITY CLERK**—The clerk is elected for two years. He keeps a record of all meetings of the city council. He issues all

orders on the treasurer, and is custodian of the city seal and all books and papers belonging to the city. He performs other duties pertaining to the office of clerk.

**THE CITY TREASURER**—This officer receives and pays out on the order of the city council the funds of the city. He is elected biennially.

**THE CITY ATTORNEY**—The city attorney is the legal adviser of all city officers. He draws up all ordinances and prosecutes those breaking city ordinances. He conducts any law suit in which the city may be engaged.

**THE POLICE MAGISTRATE**—This officer is elected in a village or city and has the same jurisdiction as a justice of the peace.

**APPOINTIVE OFFICERS**—The superintendent of streets, city marshal and police are appointed by the mayor or village president, subject to the approval of the council.

### COUNTY OFFICERS.

**THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**—This board is a very important feature of the government of this county. It is made up of one supervisor from each town, as no town in the county has a population sufficient to secure an assistant supervisor. The statutes fix dates for the holding of two meetings of this board, the second Tuesday of September and the second Monday in June. In Woodford county it is customary to hold at least three additional meetings, and such special meetings as the business of the county demands. The additional meetings are held in December, February and April.

The board of Supervisors meets at the court house in Eureka, and holds its sessions in the supervisors' room. It organizes at the April meeting by choosing one of its members as chairman. He presides over all meetings of the board and appoints the various committees of the board.

The more important duties of the board are as follows: To change the boundaries of towns or to create and name new towns when deemed advisable. To care for all county property, and audit all bills against the county. To erect such pub-

lie buildings as the needs of the county demand. To fix the salaries of county officers and their deputies, except in the cases of those officers whose salaries are fixed by state law. To approve bonds of county officials and to receive all reports from them. To select the grand jury. To prepare list of 1-10 the legal voters of the town each year, from which the petit jurors are drawn. To levy taxes. The greater part of the work of the board is done thru its committees. The standing committees of the board of supervisors of Woodford county are: Road and bridges, county officers, education, finance, fees and salaries, judiciary, miscellaneous, poor farm, public buildings, pauper, printing and probation.

**COUNTY TREASURER**—This officer is elected for four years and can not succeed himself. He receives and pays out the funds of the county. In counties of the size of Woodford he is ex-officio supervisor of assessments, and county collector. As county collector he receives and distributes the delinquent tax.

**COUNTY CLERK**—This clerk keeps a record of the proceedings of the board of supervisors. In counties of the size of Woodford he is also clerk of the county court. He extends the taxes and prepares the assessors' books. He keeps a record of all money received by the county treasurer and of all orders issued. He assists in the canvass of the votes of the county and makes abstracts showing the number of votes received by each candidate. He keeps a record of all deaths and births. He is elected for four years.

**CIRCUIT CLERK**—In counties of less than sixty thousand population the circuit clerk is also county recorder. He records all deeds, mortgages, etc., filed for record. He acts as clerk of the circuit court. He issues summons, subpoenas, executions, and other processes of court. He keeps a record of all costs in the circuit court. He is elected for four years.

**COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**—He is elected for four years. He has general supervision of the work of the schools of the county. He is official adviser of directors and teachers in matters pertaining to the welfare of their

schools. He visits the schools of the county and inspects the methods of teaching and suggests plans for improving the work. He certifies teachers. Under the law which takes effect July 1, 1914, all teachers' examination questions will be prepared by a state commission, and all papers will be corrected under the supervision of this commission. He distributes the distributive school funds of the county to the various school treasurers. He receives annual reports from these treasurers and makes an annual report to the superintendent of public instruction.

THE SHERIFF attends all sessions of the county and circuit court, and convenes and calls court at the direction of the presiding judge. He serves all warrants and other papers issued by the court. He has charge of the court house and jail, and is the conservator of peace in the county. He has the care of all prisoners in the county jail and transports prisoners to the penitentiary or reform school. He has charge of insane patients when they are so adjudged, he takes them to the asylum.

THE COUNTY JUDGE is also probate judge in this county. He has charge of all probate business. The county court has exclusive jurisdiction in suits authorizing the sale of real estate for the collection of taxes. It has jurisdiction in cases in which the amount in dispute is \$1,000 or less, and in criminal cases in which the punishment is not a penitentiary sentence or death.

THE STATE'S ATTORNEY sees that offenders against the laws of the state are indicted, and brought to trial. He defends all county officers in suits brought against them. He is legal adviser of all county officers.

THE SURVEYOR keeps a record of all surveys made by him, and answers all calls made upon him for his services in surveying.

A MASTER IN CHANCERY is appointed in each county by the judges of the circuit court. Many matters concerning the settlement of estates, the foreclosing of mortgages and the quieting of titles are referred to him for investigations. He reports his findings to the court and the judge makes his decision in the matter.

THE CORONER holds inquests whenever some person is



killed or dies under unusual conditions that make an investigation advisable.

### PROBATION OFFICER.

A probation officer may be appointed by the county judge, who has charge of juvenile cases in this county. Woodford county has had such an officer for the past two years. Her special duties are to look after dependent and delinquent children. Children are frequently placed in her charge by direction of the court and she visits them frequently and has general oversight of them. She does much by way of suggesting in securing better ways of living among the poor.

### COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF HIGHWAYS.

The most recently created county office is that of county superintendent of highways. This officer is appointed by the board of supervisors in the following manner. The county board submits a list of from three to five persons, residents of the county, to the State Highway Commission. A competitive examination is held, and the commissioners returns the names of those best fitted to fill the position. The supervisors then make the appointment. If no one on the list first submitted is competent a second list is submitted in the same manner. If no one on the second list is found competent the board may employ some one who is not a resident of the county, who has passed the examination.

The duties of this officer are as follows:

1. To prepare plans, specifications and estimates for all bridges to be built in the county.
2. To act for the county in the supervision of the construction or maintenance of any road or bridge maintained at the entire or joint expense of the county.
3. To visit and inspect the highways and bridges once each year.
4. To supervise the repair and maintenance of all state aid roads within his county.
5. To keep a record of all contracts for materials, machinery or apparatus costing \$200.

The county will hereafter receive an apportionment of state funds for road building, but before securing this must appropriate a like sum for the same purpose.

### THE CIRCUIT COURT.

The circuit of which Woodford county is a part is composed of McLean, Livingston, Logan, Ford and Woodford counties. Three judges are elected and serve six years. They make the circuit from county to county, making as equal a division of the labor as possible. The circuit court has original jurisdiction in all criminal cases and in civil cases between citizens of Illinois. It has appellate jurisdiction in cases of appeal from county and justice courts.

### THE GRAND JURY.

The grand jury is composed of 23 members chosen by the board of supervisors. The court appoints one of its members foreman. All evidence against the accused is heard and if the jury considers it sufficient an indictment is returned and the prisoner is held for trial or is released on bond. At least sixteen jurors must be present when an indictment is returned and at least twelve must agree to it.

### PETIT JURY.

The petit jury is chosen in the following manner: The names chosen, by the supervisors are written separately on slips of card board, and placed in a box. A sufficient time before the opening of a session of circuit court the circuit clerk is blindfolded in the presence of the county judge, the sheriff, and the county clerk or his deputy, and he draws from the box the required number of names. Usually in Woodford county thirty-six names are drawn, as two full juries are usually needed, and there are always a few who present valid excuses for not serving.

The jury consists of twelve men. All evidence on both sides is heard. After hearing the evidence the court instructs the jury as to the law in the case. The jury retires and remains in charge of an officer while it makes up its verdict. All must

agree in order to return a verdict. In case all do not agree a disagreement is reported and another trial is necessary.

#### CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT.

Woodford county is at the present time a part of the seventeenth congressional district, which is composed of Livingston, McLean, Ford, Logan and Woodford counties.

#### SENATORIAL DISTRICT.

Woodford county is now a part of the sixteenth senatorial district, which is composed of Livingston, Marshall, Woodford, and Putnam counties.

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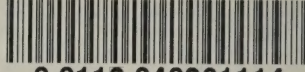








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